

## PRECEPT

### JOHN 16:33

<sup>33</sup> I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take courage! I have overcome the world.

### JAMES 1:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

## PROMISE

As we talk about overcoming troubles in life, it's very comforting to know that God is our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble. In John 16, Jesus warned His disciples before leaving the world about what is going to happen to Him and them. He also prepared them by sharing the ministry of the Holy Spirit and said that they may weep and mourn for the time being, but all their sadness will eventually turn into joy (John 16:33). He confessed to His disciples, "*In this world, you will have trouble. But take courage! I have overcome the world.*"

Even though Jesus has already won the victory for us, apparently, we cannot have a trouble-free life. Henry Ward Beecher says, "*Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.*" Looking at the perspective of the world, we will surely complain, grieve, and grumble whenever we face troubles in life. If we look at the perspective of God, and the purpose these troubles has for our lives, our sadness will turn into gladness, knowing that all of these hardships are for our own good in the end. The fact that Jesus has won the victory for us should change the way we look at troubles. Troubles cannot harm us anymore; rather, troubles are tools by which God uses to make us better and stronger. The fact is, our security in life must rest on the victory of Christ. Though troubles may seem to defeat us, remember that because of Christ's victory, we can overcome any problems and troubles that will come our way. When we put our trust and surrender our lives to Him, we too have become overcomers, because our Saviour and Lord has overcome the world. There is no amount of trouble that can defeat us and break us down.

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote a letter to the early Christian churches stating about how we should perceive troubles that might come our way. He tells us, "*when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*" (James 1:2-3) With certainty, we know that the troubles happening in our life are to improve the quality of our faith and trust in our God. Counterfeit faith will be exposed when troubles come, and if we have genuine faith, these troubles will make us tenacious like never before. He continues in chapter 4 when he said, "*So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*" Don't give up, run away, or stop believing, for the troubles that we have today are the centre of God's activity to make us stronger and better. It is never easy, but it will always be worth it. Let us hold on to His promise that in every battle that we face, He is with us, and He will never leave nor forsake us. Praises be unto our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

## PRACTICE

**1. When Faith Is Tested.** How has your faith been tested by the troubles that you have experienced in the past? Please share how you have overcome it.

**2. Take Courage.** How can you encourage or help someone who is going through tough times and troubles in their life?

## PRAYER

### I. Life Groups

- Pray that we will love and encourage one another at all times; that we will share our lives together.

### II. Pastors & Elders

- Pray for joy, peace, and strength for Ptr. Jeffrey & Roann Basco & all our elders.

### III. Missionaries

- Pray for courage and that God will shield and guard them against the enemy.

### IV. Gospel

- Pray for God to continue opening doors for His Gospel to spread all over the world.

### V. Nations

- Pray for the welfare of all nations and that justice systems will be ruled with God's righteousness.

### VI. Faith

- Pray that we will intentionally strengthen our faith and that we can share it to others.

### VII. Hope

- Pray for hope that never wavers, and that we can share our hope in Christ to the people around us.